

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /077 W
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R 301421Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3313
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY CIARO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
/AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 4759

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 1907

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR ET EG SO SU
SUBJ: MENGISTU MEETING WITH SOMALIS, EGYPTIANS , SUDAN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1796

1. FOLLOWING MEETINGS WITH AFRICAN ENVOYS MARCH 25
(REFTEL) PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU HELD SEPARATE MEETING
WITH EGYPTIAN, SOMALI AMBASSADORS AND SUDANESE CHARGE
MARCH 26. MEETING ALSO ATTENDED BY PMAC FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BERHANU BAYEH AND FOREIGN MINISTER.
ACCORDING TO MEDIA REPORTS, SUBJECT WAS "BILATERAL RE-
LATIONS" WITH MENGISTU NOTING PAST TIES LINKING
ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE WITH EGYPT AND SUDAN AND STATING THERE
ARE NOW "BETTER CHANCES FOR STRENGTHENING THESE TIES AND
BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP IN PRESENT SPIRIT OF REVOLUTIONARY
FRANKNESS." CHAIRMAN CONTINUED BY NOTING IT UP TO
LEADERS TO BRING PEOPLES CLOSER TOGETHER AND THAT
ENVOYS HAD HIGH RESPONSIBILITIES NOT ONLY TO PRO-
MOTE CLOSER RELATIONS BEWTEEN SISTERLY COUNTRIES BUT
ALSO TO HELP REMOVE"CONTRADICTIONS WHICH ARISE FROM
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TIME TO TIME BETWEEN SISTERLY COUNTRIES."

2. CONVERSATIONS WITH BOTH SOMALI AND EGYPTIAN
EMBOFFS INDICATE MEDIA ACCURATELY REPORTED MENGISTU'S
COMMENTS. EGYPTIANS APPEAR SOMEWHAT PUZZLED AS TO
SINCERITY OF MENGISTU PITCH FOR BETTER RELATIONS AT
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SINCERITY OF MENGISTU PITCH FOR BETTER RELATIONS AT THIS TIME. EGYPTIAN AMB HAD APPARENTLY OBTAINED COPY OF NOTES COVERING MENGISTU'S PRIOR MEETING WITH AFRICANS IN WHICH MENGISTU RAISED EPMG'S PROBLEMS WITH MODERATE ARABS. AMB APPARENTLY READ FROM NOTES, NOTED INCONGRUITIES, AND INDICATED TO CHAIRMAN THAT ETHIOPIANS COULD NOT SUCCESSFULLY PLAY OFF AFRICANS AND ARABS. SOMALIS MAY HAVE RAISED OGADEN QUESTION, AND SOMALI AMB APPARENTLY INDICATED THAT MATTER COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED WITH DISCUSSIONS AT HIGHEST LEVELS. IN ANY CASE, SOMALIS HERE MAKING LITTLE OF MEETING.

3. COMMENT: TONE OF PRESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST MODERATE ARABS HERE HAS BEEN TONED DOWN SOMEWHAT. EGYPTIANS STATE NIMEIRI AND GOS HAVE ALSO TONED DOWN THEIR ATTACKS ON EPMG, AND WE SUSPECT THAT EGYPTIANS MAY BE MAKING EFFORT TO IMPROVE GOS-EPMG RELATIONS. EGYPTIAN EMBOFF HAS STATED THAT EGYPTIANS MADE QUIET EFFORT WITH EPMG PRIOR TO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT TO TEST WATER FOR POSSIBLE SADAT MEDIATION. EPMG APPARENTLY DISINTERESTED AT THAT POINT IN TIME. IN VIEW APPARENT LACK OF SUCCESS BY CASTRO IN MEDIATING BETWEEN ETHIOPIANS AND SOMALIS, EGYPTIANS MAY NOW BE ATTEMPTING MINIMIZE SOVIET INFLUENCE WITH EPMG AND IN HORN BY LEANING ON SUDAN TO PATCH UP RELATIONS WITH EPMG AND BY SUPPORTING SUDANESE EFFORTS AT TAIZ CONFERENCE AND ELSEWHERE. IMPRESSION GIVEN BY EGYPTIAN EMBOFFS THAT THEY MORE INTERESTED IN MINIMIZING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN MOGADISCIO. EGYPTIAN OFFICER EXPRESSED VIEW
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THAT US SHOULD RETAIN ITS PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND MAKE DIRECT APPROACH TO MENGISTU NOW TO ATTEMPT MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE US INFLUENCE. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS BY ADDRESSEES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: PFOR, ET, EG, SO, SU, (MENISTU HAILE MARIAM)
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